An Addition to 'the Funnies' Is Born . . .

Globe-Democrat Artist's Comic Strip Makes Debut in Nation's Leading Newspapers Today

By Margaret Maunder.

A coming-out party is being staged today in—of all places—the roaring press-rooms of newspapers throughout the nation.

There'll be no tea and cakes. It's not that kind of party. But when pressmen smudgy with printer's ink cast an expert eye on the comic page to see how it's printing up, two newcomers will make their debut in the fabulous realm of make-believe, the funny papers.

They are Mr. and Mrs. Bride, befuddled hero and ever-loving heroine of the new comic strip, June Bride, created by Vic Vac, veteran Globe-Democrat artist. More than a score of leading newspapers from Washington to San Francisco will carry the work of the St. Louis-born cartoonist.

Plump-cheeked June and her hubby, who climbed up to kibitz in the above illustration, are following an old tradition. Pixies of one kind and another have been sitting on plump-cheeked Vic's shoulder or balancing like flag-pole sitters on his paint brushes for many years.

They perched on his geography book back in eighth grade at Marquette school.

Favorite Subject

"In English, history, geography and arithmetic classes, my favorite subject was drawing," the good-natured artist recalled with his whistling sort of chuckle which reverberates over the nether regions of our editorial room many times daily. "I used to get sent to the office for drawing with a book propped up on my desk," he continued. "Poor Miss Bacon. She had a time with me!"

The budding cartoonist was shrewd enough, however, to temper drawing talent with diplomacy.

"I made her a nice big pen and ink drawing of the ruins of Rome," he laughed. "I had it framed and gave it to her as sort of a peace offering."

Miss Bacon, overcome by this show of esteem and affection, decided that the picture should have a permanent place on the walls of Marquette School. But before she hung it there, she took it to Dr. Edmund H. Wuerpel, a nationally-known artist who was then director of the St. Louis School of Fine Arts, at Washington University.

The result was that Vic Vac, still a grade-school pupil, began attending college art classes every Saturday morning. But here again the pixies pursued him.

"I wanted an art education because before you can impersonate anyone you should know what the real person is like," he explained, "but during all the studies of the old masters I had an urge to draw comics. I liked sketching, too, and often would leave the real-life drawing class to sit under a viaduct and draw the changing patterns of lights and shadows."

Vic was graduated from the St. Louis School of Fine Arts and took his first newspaper job at the age of 18, on the old St. Louis Republic.

"I worked six months for nothing, and then got a $5 a week raise," the cartoonist related. For this meager stipend he was called upon to perform a very unusual kind of duty.

"People didn't have as many photographs of themselves then as they do now, and when anyone was murdered I was sent to the City Morgue to draw a picture of the victim," Vic laughed, getting up from his drawing board to re-enact the scene as he so often does when telling a story.

"Here I was, sitting alone in the icebox"—shoulders hunched—"with just one flickering light bulb and the dead body lying on the slab"—hand run horizontally over his desk. "I was so scared that I could hardly keep the pencil from shaking, and when I got out I ran all the way back to the office."

When the last war came along, Vic fibbed about his age to get into the Navy, and it was at the Great Lakes Training Station that he got his first experience in comic strip work. He drew "Salty Steve," a World War I Sad Sack, for the Great Lakes paper.

VIC VAC POSES AT HIS DESK in the Globe-Democrat's art department, and is accompanied by the two leading characters in his new comic strip, "June Bride."

Shanty Lane

After the war he returned to the Republic, then joined the Globe-Democrat in 1926, where he has been ever since. During the days of the old Sunday Magazine section, he drew a weekly cartoon entitled "Shanty Lane." For the last three years he has been the paper's chief artist.

The Vic Vac touch has also been seen in commercial art work distributed throughout the nation. One year the artist handled all the art work for the Tuberculosis Fund campaign, and during the recent war he volunteered his services in preparing illustrated booklets for the Navy.

Vic, who was 46 years old last Groundhog Day, was christened Victor Andrew Vaccarezza. "That was too long for a canvas," he says. "It would run all the way along the bottom and turn up at the corner. So I took the first three letters of my first and last names—Vic Vac."

No upholder of the idea of artistic temperaments, Vic nevertheless says there are times when he can't draw. "I can tell the minute the pencil hits the paper that something is wrong," he explains. "That happens every couple of months, and when it does I just lay my things down and wait till it passes. It may last an hour or a day."

To those who have suggested ideas for story illustrations and seen them emerge on Vic's drawing board almost before we have finished describing them, it seems that ideas must burst full-blown in the artist's mind. But he says no.

ASSISTING Vic Vac by providing the "script" for "June Bride" is Dave Brown, also of the Globe-Democrat staff.

"I don't know what it's going to look like until it flows out there," he said, holding up the tip of his pencil in his plump right hand. "I keep the basic idea in mind, but it only confuses me to visualize whether a figure will stand with his back or his face to me. The arrangements have to take shape on the board."

Vic Vac and David Brown, who is preparing the text for the June Bride strip, have been co-workers on the Globe-Democrat for 20 years. Each is married and has a son who was in the Army Air Corps. Brown, who has edited the Highlights of the Week's News for eight years, recently was given the Fontbonne College award for the most distinguished journalism originating in the St. Louis newspapers.

"The Brides really live in our minds," Brown said. "After working with the strip for eight months, June and her husband seem like real people."

Vic Vac is sold on the idea that a comic strip should be comic—that it should adhere to the original idea of funny papers. But he is set against bringing even the slightest rowdy element into the strip.

"Her hubby may go a little haywire once in a while but we all do that, and it takes someone else to put us straight," Vic pointed out. "But there'll be no shoe-throwing or rolling pin swinging in this. There's never been any of that in my family, and I don't want these little people to have any part of it."

Like Vic's Wife

In appearance the characters are composites of many people, Vic says, but the character of June was inspired by Vic's wife, Rose, who is also his most discerning critic.

"June is the quiet, gentle type who encourages her husband and straightens him out when he goes wrong," Vic said, "and Rose is the heroine of the strip and me both."

Vic is a quiet, steady worker at his drawing board, but outcroppings of his pervading sense of humor are a pleasant part of

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HELP WANTED

Managers for Neighborhood Stores. Good hours; pleasant work. Advancement opportunities. Apply Howards Cleaners, 2515 N. Grand.

It's Thrrrrifty . . .

JUNE BRIDE

By Vic Vac

A Great Ambition

WHERE'S MY VIOLIN?... I WANT TO PRACTICE ON IT!
WELL!... WHAT HAS SUDDENLY FIRED YOUR AMBITION?
READ A STORY IN SCHOOL THAT SHOWED ME MUSIC CAN REALLY BE USEFUL... BROTHER, DID IT GIVE ME A BIG IDEA..... I'LL GET RICH!
GUESS HE'S DECIDED TO BECOME A CONCERT VIOLINIST!
LISTEN!.... HE'S PLAYING IN THE ATTIC.... ....LET'S SNEAK UP AND SEE WHAT GOES ON!
IF THE PIED PIPER COULD DO IT, I CAN DO IT.... AND THERE'S DOUGH IN THE EXTERMINATING BUSINESS!!!!
?
THE PIED PIPER
Vic Vac

JUNE BRIDE

By Vic Vac

THE TRAIL IS GETTING HOT... WE'RE HITTING RIGHT ON THE TARGET... HERE'S THE PETRIFIED STUMP!
WE FOLLOW THE RIDGE ACCORDING TO DIRECTIONS, AND HERE IS THE SKULL WHERE IT SAYS TURN RIGHT!
Vic Vac

THIS MUST BE THE RAVINE ON THE MAP... IF IT IS, THE MYSTERY OF "TUMBLEWEED" WILL SOON BE SOLVED!
I SOLVED IT LONG AGO... IT'S A GOLD MINE... YOUR GOLD MINE, NOW THAT HANDLEBAR'S PROBABLY DEAD!
LOOK!.. ...DO YOU SEE WHAT I SEE??
I DO... AND BROTHER, IT ISN'T A MIRAGE!

JUNE BRIDE **By Vic Vac**

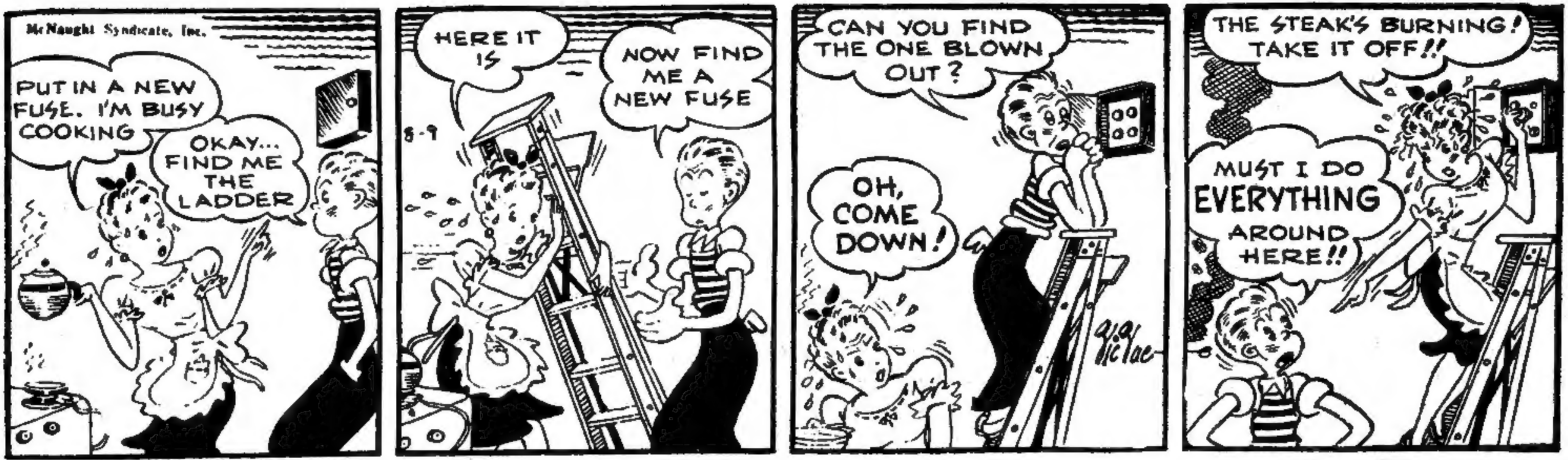
McNaught Syndicate, Inc.
JUST MOVED IN ..... HOPE YOU'RE NOT THE BORROWING KIND OF NEIGHBOR!!
SAY, BRIDE, CAN I USE YOUR RAZOR? CAN'T LOCATE MINE.
Vic Vac
SHAKESPEARE WAS RIGHT... HE SAID: "NEITHER A BORROWER NOR A LENDER BE..."
THE BARD ALSO SAID: "BORROWING DULLS THE EDGE OF HUSBANDRY"
AND THE EDGE OF MY RAZOR!

JUNE BRIDE

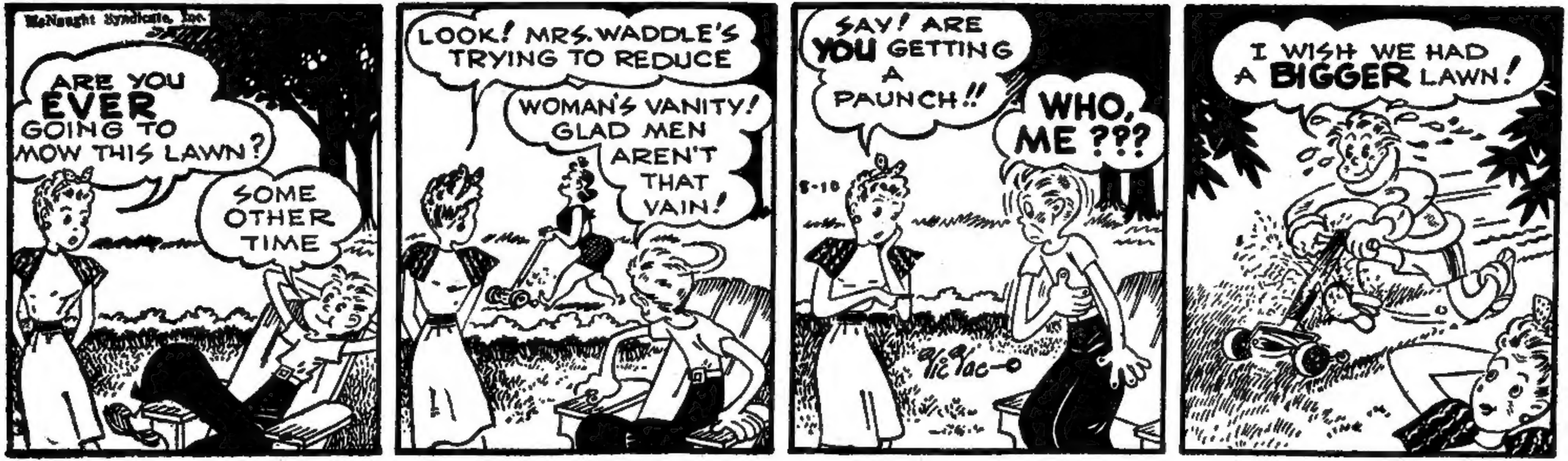
By Vic Vac

McNaught Syndicate, Inc.
THEY SAY HIS MIND READING IS UNCANNY
IT'S IMPOSSIBLE!
TONIGHT
8-8
The AMAZING SWAMI SIGH-KIK
HE READS YOUR THOUGHTS
THE ZHENTLEMAN IN EIGHTH ROW.... NEXT TO AISLE
THAT'S YOU!!
Vic Vac ©
YOU ARE THEENKING OF MONEY.... YOU WEEN EET AT POKER... HIDE EET UNDER MATTRESS.... HOPE WIFE WEEL NOT FIND.....
HOW'D THAT GET THERE! NOW I KNOW WHY THE BED'S BEEN SO LUMPY!!!

JUNE BRIDE **By Vic Vac**

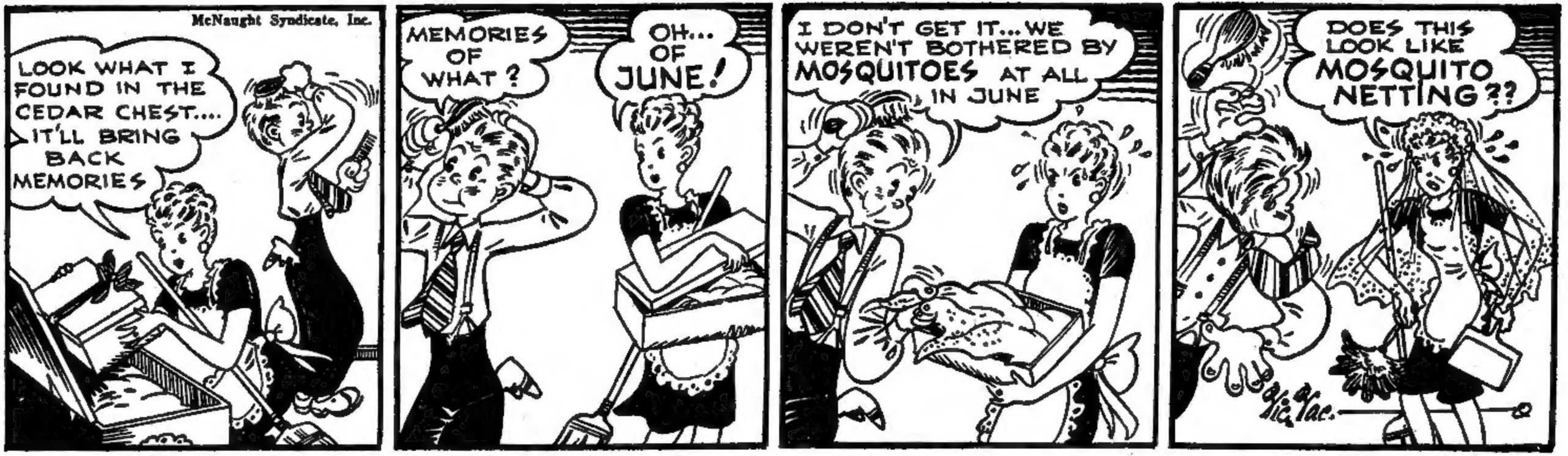

McNaught Syndicate, Inc.
PUT IN A NEW FUSE. I'M BUSY COOKING
OKAY... FIND ME THE LADDER
HERE IT IS
NOW FIND ME A NEW FUSE
CAN YOU FIND THE ONE BLOWN OUT?
OH, COME DOWN!
Vic Vac
THE STEAK'S BURNING! TAKE IT OFF!!
MUST I DO EVERYTHING AROUND HERE!!

JUNE BRIDE **By Vic Vac**

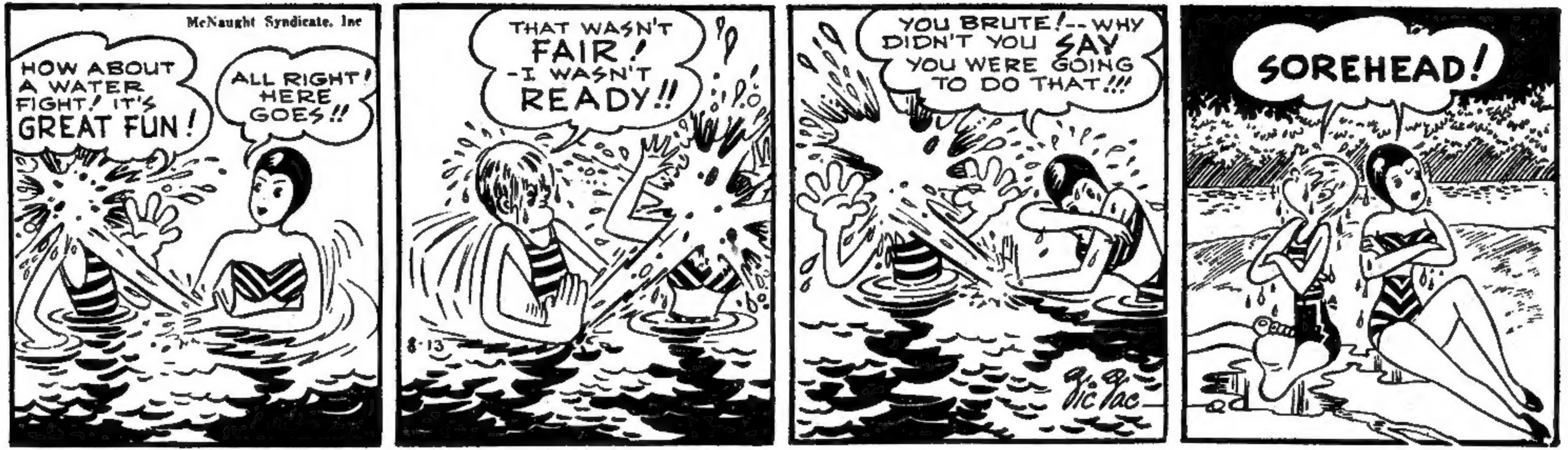

McNaught Syndicate, Inc.
ARE YOU EVER GOING TO MOW THIS LAWN?
SOME OTHER TIME
LOOK! MRS. WADDLE'S TRYING TO REDUCE
WOMAN'S VANITY! GLAD MEN AREN'T THAT VAIN!
SAY! ARE YOU GETTING A PAUNCH!!
WHO, ME ???
8-10
Vic Vac
I WISH WE HAD A BIGGER LAWN!

JUNE BRIDE

By Vic Vac


McNaught Syndicate, Inc.
LOOK WHAT I FOUND IN THE CEDAR CHEST.... IT'LL BRING BACK MEMORIES
MEMORIES OF WHAT?
OH... OF JUNE!
I DON'T GET IT... WE WEREN'T BOTHERED BY MOSQUITOES AT ALL IN JUNE
DOES THIS LOOK LIKE MOSQUITO NETTING??
Vic Vac.

JUNE BRIDE **By Vic Vac**


McNaught Syndicate, Inc
HOW ABOUT A WATER FIGHT! IT'S GREAT FUN!
ALL RIGHT! HERE GOES!!
THAT WASN'T FAIR! -I WASN'T READY!!
8-13
YOU BRUTE!--WHY DIDN'T YOU SAY YOU WERE GOING TO DO THAT!!!
Vic Vac
SOREHEAD!